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MARCH 17.

Mr. GEORGE W. TRYON, Jr., in the chair.

Twenty-four persons present.

The following papers were presented for publication :—

"Entomologia Hongkongensis.—Report on the Lepidoptera of Hongkong," by F. Warrington Eastlake.

"Description of a supposed new species of the genus Cyanocorax," by Alan F. Gentry.

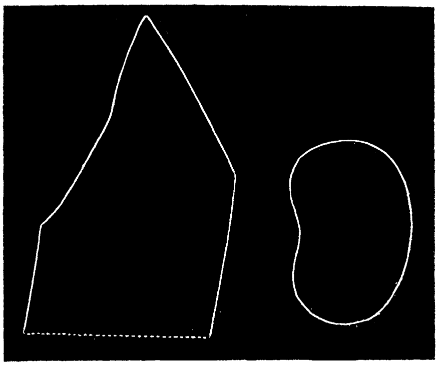
The death of Titian R. Peale, a member, was announced.

MARCH 24.

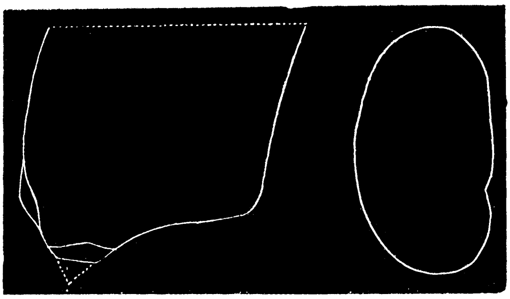
The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty-six persons present.

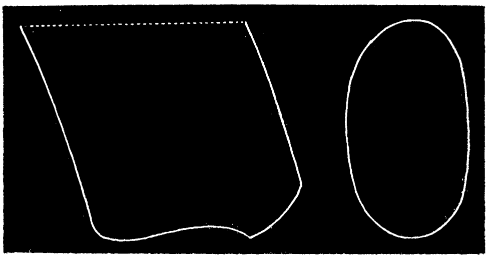
Remarks on Mylodon.—Prof. LEIDY remarked that among the fossils of *Mastodon*, *Equus*, etc., from the salt mines of New Iberia, La., noticed in the Proceedings of 1884, p. 22, there are three teeth, which are probably to be referred to the reputed *Mylodon Harlani.* Of this species we are sufficiently well acquainted with the posterior three lower molars, but know little of the first lower molar, and nothing of the upper teeth. One of the Louisiana specimens accords in form and size with the third lower molar, in the best preserved jaw-fragment (see Extinct Sloth Tribe, pl. xiv, 1, 2), from Big-bone-lick, Ken., regarded as characteristic of *Mylodon Harlani.* The other Louisiana specimens, in comparison with the complete dental series in both jaws of *Mylodon robustus*, as represented in the famous memoir of Prof. Owen, are so unlike any of the teeth of this animal, that they might readily be considered as pertaining to another genus. One of the specimens, of which the triturating extremity and a transverse section are represented in the outline figures 1, 2, he took to be a first lower molar. It has lost all its cementum, but is otherwise well preserved. It is worn off in deep slopes, of which the posterior is more than an inch long, and the anterior little less than an inch. The transverse section is reniform, widest in front, and agrees in shape and size with a fragment of the corresponding tooth (*op. cit.*, pl. xvi, 19 *a*) retained in the jaw-fragment from Kentucky. In all the teeth of *Mylodon robustus*, the triturating surface inclines comparatively little from a level. Such also is the case in all the teeth of the ramus of a lower jaw, from Natchez, Miss., attributed to a halfgrown animal of *Mylodon Harlani*, preserved in our museum. In this, among some rude casts in plaster, the originals of which were described by Dr. Harlan, under the name of *Orycterotherium missouriense* (Am. Jour. Sci., 1843, 69), and subsequently referred to *Mylodon Harlani*, is one of a lower-jaw fragment, which contains the first molar, and the mutilated base of the second. The latter, in the perfect state, would appear to accord in shape and size with the corresponding tooth in the Kentucky jaw-fragment, referred to *Mylodon Harlani*. The first molar is unlike that of *Mylodon robustus*, but sufficiently accords in size, shape, and condition of wear, with the Louisiana tooth to regard this as pertaining to the same animal. The remaining Louisiana specimen is not only unlike any of the teeth of *Mylodon robustus*, but differs from them to such a degree as to render it doubtful whether it belongs to the same genus. In comparison with other teeth of the lower or upper series, in size and shape, it accords with the canine molars of *Megalonyx* more than it does with any of the teeth of *Mylodon*. The triturating extremity and transverse section are represented in the outlines 3 and 4. It is more uniformly elliptical in transverse section than in the canine molars of *Megalonyx*, and is devoid of the abrupt median bulge



1. 2.



3. 4.



5. 6.

inwardly of the latter. Regarding it as a first upper molar, it is twice the breadth of the corresponding tooth of *Mylodon robustus*, not only absolutely, but also proportionately in comparison with all the other teeth, except the last one of the lower series. The triturating extremity is worn away obliquely and concavely behind for about two-thirds the breadth of the tooth, and obliquely in front the remaining third of the breadth, but the slopes extend only half the depth observed in the accompanying specimen of the first lower molar. In view of the dentition of *Mylodon robustus*, it seems improbable that this tooth should belong to an animal of the same genus, nor would it appear to be adapted as an opponent to the comparatively narrow, long-pointed tooth which accompanies it. Nevertheless, he was suspicious that both these teeth, may pertain to the *Mylodon Harlani*, partly from the fact that the lower-jaw fragment, originally referred to *Orycterotherium missouriense*, and then to the latter, contains a first molar like the Louisiana specimen, and partly from the fact that the jaw-fragment was accompanied by an isolated molar tooth nearly resembling the supposed upper first molar from Louisiana. A plaster cast of the tooth referred to *Orycterotherium*, of which the triturating extremity and transverse section are represented in the outlines 5 and 6, though rather smaller, is sufficiently like the corresponding Louisiana tooth to render it probable this belonged to the same animal. Admitting that the two Louisiana specimens may not belong to the reputed *Mylodon Harlani*, he felt that the coincidence of facts is such as not to justify a conclusion to refer them to a new genus, and if further discovery should demonstrate that they really pertain to this animal, it becomes a question whether the difference of the teeth from those of *Mylodon robustus* is not sufficient to restore the name of *Orycterotherium missouriense*.

Fig. 1. Outer view of the first lower molar; Louisiana specimen; length, 85 mm. Fig. 2. Transverse section; the front above, the outer side to the right; fore and aft, 24 mm.; short diameter, 17 mm. Fig. 3. Outer view of the first upper molar, Louisiana specimen; length, 83 mm. Fig. 4. Transverse section; fore and aft, 34 mm.; short diameter, 19 mm. Fig. 5. Outer view of cast referred to *Orycterotherium;* length, 67 mm. Fig. 6. Transverse section; fore and aft, 29 mm.; short diameter, 17 mm.

The following were ordered to be printed :—